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National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: 386-428-3384 Ext. 18 Laura Henning

APOLLO DISTRICT INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS MARCH 2006

PONTOON BOAT CRUISE:

THE BACKWATERS OF MOSQUITO LAGOON

Journey with a National Park Ranger on a visit to the colorful places that lend character to this vital estuary. Our pontoon boat, *Tortuga del Sol* is U.S. Coast Guard inspected and our licensed captains and experienced mates are trained to provide you with a memorable and safe park water tour. Join us for a two-hour journey as we cruise from the Visitor Center on most Sundays, at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., weather permitting. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and SPACE IS LIMITED. A cost recovery fee of \$13.00 per person is charged for all passengers. Call (386) 428-3384 ext. 10 to reserve space.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8TH-11:00 AM-"TURTLE MOUND TALK" Learn what life would have been like for the Timucuan Indians who inhabited this area 2,000 years ago. Hat, water and sunscreen recommended. Meet at Turtle Mound. (1 hour)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8TH-2:00 PM-"DOLPHIN DISCUSSION" Join a ranger and learn the facts and lore about this charming mammal. Then we'll walk out back and try to spot some in Mosquito Lagoon. Meet at the Visitor Information Center. (1 hour)

TUESDAY, MARCH 14TH-10:00 AM-"A CRABBING WE WILL GO" Learn about the elusive and delicious blue crab. Try some trapping techniques and get some recipe ideas. Meet at the Visitor Information Center. (1 hour)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15TH-11:00 AM-"ELDORA WALK" Take a stroll through time down to the Eldora State House and learn what it would have been like to live in an agricultural village around the turn-of-the-century. Meet at parking area #8. (1 hour)

SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH-1:00 PM-"PINE NEEDLE BASKET WEAVING"Learn the ancient art of pine needle basket weaving. Great for beginners or those looking to brush up on their skills. The materials will be provided, just bring your imagination. Meet at the Visitor Information Center. (1 hour)

SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH**-10:00 AM-"BEACH WALK"** Join a park guide as you explore Apollo Beach. Discover the wonderful things which can be found if you just look. Hat, water and sunscreen are recommended. Meet at the Visitor Information Center. (1 hour)

SUNDAY, MARCH 26TH-10:00 **AM-"CAST NETTING"** Learn tips and tricks to help you become more graceful at this fun pastime. Hat, water and sunscreen recommended. Meet at the pavilion behind the Visitor Information Center. (1 hour)

FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST-12:00 PM-"BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES" Bring a bag lunch and join us at our pavilion for a special guest speaker. This month we are welcoming (1 hour)